

Pre-announcement of ERA4Health 2025 Call for proposals:

Understanding the interactions between cardiovascular diseases and comorbidities and/or their therapeutic treatments (InterHeart)

Aim of the call

The aim of the call is to support research that:

- build our understanding of molecular and cellular mechanisms governing interactions between the cardiovascular system and the other organs/systems when at least one of the two presents a pathological state,
- build a comprehensive approach to understanding cardiovascular disease interactions, combining basic research, clinical translation, and digital innovation through international collaboration,
- enable transnational collaboration of multidisciplinary scientists from different countries to work together across borders, taking advantage of complementary expertise and leveraging diverse patient populations and sets of data.

The proposals should focus on expanding knowledge and understand:

- how CVD affect the performance of other organs/systems and/or their capacity to respond to treatments,
- how disorders other than CVD affect cardiovascular system performance including response to treatments,
- and/or how treatment for disorders other than CVD affect positively or negatively the performance of the cardiovascular system.

The proposals should include one of the following approaches:

- Mechanistic / experimental research.
- Identification and validation of biomarkers of organs/systems/disorders crosstalk mentioned above (including epigenetics biomarkers).
- Generation of digital models of disease(s) to study disease-disease or disease-drug.

Exclusion:

- Except for small-scale clinical studies up to phase 2, all other clinical studies are excluded in this call.
- Proposals which are not dealing with the cardiovascular system or CVD.
- Proposals that only study the cardiovascular system or CVD without studying the interaction with other organs, systems, diseases or the response to their treatment.
- Studies on how CVD treatments affect the performance of other system/organs.
- Development of therapeutics.
- Infectious diseases, even if studied with CVD.

Participating countries and respective funding organisations

The following participating funding organisations have agreed to fund this call for transnational research projects:

- **Belgium** - Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) and The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)
- **Denmark** - Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD)
- **France** - French Research Funding Agency (ANR)
- **Hungary** - National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)
- **Italy** - Ministry of Health (IT-MOH)
- **Latvia** - Latvian Council of Science (LCS)
- **Lithuania** - Research Council of Lithuania (LMT)
- **Poland** - National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
- **Slovakia** - Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)
- **Spain** - Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia (CSCJA) and the State Research Agency (AEI)
- **Taiwan** - National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)

Timeline of the call

January 7th, 2025	Publication of call
January 14th, 2025 14:00 CET	Webinar Infoday
March 7th, 2025 12:00 CET	Deadline for pre-proposal submission
May 7 th , 2025	Communication of the results (invitation for full proposal)
June 17th, 2025 12:00 CEST	Deadline for full proposal submission
Aug 22th – Sep 3rd, 2025	Rebuttal stage
End of October	Communication of the funding decisions to the applicants
Dec 2025 – May 2026	Expected project start (subject to national procedures)

General conditions for application

The duration of the projects will be 36 months.

Joint research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to one of the following categories (eligibility of project partners may vary according to national/regional regulations):

- **A. Academia**
- **B. Clinical/public health sector**
- **C. Enterprises**
- **D. Operational stakeholders**

Only transnational projects will be funded. The following conditions apply to the composition of consortia:

- A minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 eligible partners from at least 3 different countries participating in the call. The maximum number of eligible partners can be increased up to six or seven if they include one or two partners, respectively, from an underrepresented country (Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia).
- No more than 2 eligible partners from the same country.

- A maximum of 2 collaborators (self-funded partner not applying funding).

Project partners will be funded by their relevant national/regional funding organisation. Eligible costs and funding rules vary between the respective funding organisations.

Please note: *The content of the call described in this pre-announcement is indicative and may be subject to changes and is not legally binding. Interested applicants are encouraged to initiate scientific contacts with potential project consortium partners for applications*